

Howard Middle School
Dress Code
2020-2021

Howard Middle School's dress code is designed to maintain an academic focus in the classroom and on campus.

Instruction is interrupted when a student has to be seen by an administrator because of inappropriate dress. **If in the judgment of the administration or staff, a student is dressed inappropriately, the student will be required to change clothing.**

The Howard administration and staff would like the cooperation of the students and parents in reviewing the student's dress to ensure it meets the following **uniform dress code** guidelines before the student comes to school.

Any students' dress/appearance not specifically stated which causes a disruption in the learning environment will not be permitted. It is essential that students respect the learning environment by being appropriately dressed for school. The purpose of the student uniform dress code is not to inhibit any person's taste in attire, but rather to better facilitate the process of education through reasonable guidelines of "dress" instilling dignity and pride.

School Uniform Dress Code

PANTS, SHORTS, OR SKIRTS (NO JEANS):

- Plain khaki, black or navy DRESS pants
 - Must be of appropriate size, not flare legged, worn as designed and of ankle length. Pants designed to be worn below the top of the hip-bone are not allowed.
- Plain khaki, black or navy skirts or shorts.
 - Skirts or shorts must be no shorter than (4) inches above the knee.
 - Skirts cannot have any slits or openings.
 - Jean shorts or cut off shorts are not allowed.

SHIRTS:

- Plain white or school color shirts.
- Shirts can be long sleeve or short sleeve.
- All shirts must be of appropriate size.

In addition to the required uniform dress code, students must comply to the following:

1. **Headgear** - Headgear is not allowed to be worn in the building. This includes, but is not limited to, caps, hats, hoods, bandanas, wave caps, sweatbands, or any other head covering including hoodies. Students may wear headbands which are school colors (white, black, gray, or burgundy) *Exceptions for religious or medical reasons.

2. **Shirts/Blouses/Tops/T-shirts**- Blouses/shirts should be constructed so that the tops of the shoulders are covered (no halter tops, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, or bare shoulder tops of any type will be allowed). Blouses/shirts that expose any portion of the waist, hips or midriff are not allowed. (If *you* raise your arms and the stomach shows, the top is not acceptable.)

Other blouses/shirts that are not appropriate for school include, but are not limited to, low-cut, see-through, backless, hoodies or tube tops. Rips or holes are not allowed in shirts/tops. Boys are not permitted to wear sleeveless shirts.

3. **Shorts/Skirts/Pants**- All shorts and skirts must be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Slits in skirts cannot be more than 4 inches above the knee. Waistline of shorts/skirts/pants must be *on* or above the hips with no underwear showing. There should be **no** rips or holes in pants or shorts. No “pajama” bottoms or slippers. Students wearing leggings or tights will still be held to the same requirements. Leggings and tights are considered accessories and should not be worn as outer-garments/pants.

4. **Shoes** - Health regulations and safety factors require that footwear be worn at all times at school. All shoes must have closed toes and heels (thus, no slippers, slides, flip-flops, etc.). All shoes that requires shoelaces should be properly sized and secured with the laces .

5. No student clothing shall display words or symbols that advocate or depict violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, illegal gang affiliation or other illegal activity expressed or implied. No student clothing or accessories shall be disruptive or have caused past disruption to the school environment.

6. **Jewelry or accessories that can be used as weapons are not allowed to be at school.** This includes, but is not limited to, wallet chains, jewelry such as spiked rings, spiked bracelets, two or three finger rings that are joined and bulky chains worn around the neck or waist. Sharp objects that could pose a danger, such as spikes or safety pins, are not allowed on clothing or book bags.

7. Earbuds, headphones, and Bluetooth devices may not be used or worn around the neck anywhere in the building during school hours.

These rules are subject to updates as additional wearing apparel becomes identified as gang affiliated or disruptive. Exceptions to Howard Middle School's uniform dress code may be made by the principal or his/her designee for specific reasons. An administrator will make the final determination as to the appropriateness.

Student Uniform Violations

First Offense: Includes a written warning and parent contact. If clothing cannot be corrected to meet the uniform dress code, student will be removed from the learning environment.

Second Offense: Includes a teacher/student conference and parent contact. If clothing cannot be corrected to meet the uniform dress code, student will be removed from the learning environment.

Third Offense: Includes a teacher/student conference, parent contact, and referral to the counselor. If clothing cannot be corrected to meet the uniform dress code, student will be removed from the learning environment.

Fourth Offense: Includes parent contact and an office referral; student may receive up to 2 days of ISS.

Fifth Offense: Includes parent contact and an office referral; if the uniform dress code violation issue becomes a disruption or repetitious problem, subsequent consequences may escalate to in-school suspension of 3-5 days per occurrence. Repetitive uniform dress code violations become a defiance issue, and may receive punishments beyond ISS that may include required parent meetings, OSS, and referrals to the alternative school.

Howard Spirt Wear

Howard Husky apparel may be worn at any time and must follow the guidelines listed above.

